



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

SALTON SEA ODOR ADVISORY

Valid Saturday June 20, 2020 through Sunday June 21, 2020

This advisory is in effect through Sunday evening. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has issued an odor advisory for the Eastern Coachella Valley due to elevated levels of a gas that smells like rotten eggs. That gas, hydrogen sulfide, is associated with natural processes occurring in the Salton Sea.

On Saturday morning, winds out of the southeast brought elevated hydrogen sulfide concentrations into the Eastern Coachella Valley. Hydrogen sulfide concentrations reached 67 parts per billion (ppb) at a monitor close to the shore, in an area with little population, and 58 ppb at a monitor in Mecca. The highest concentrations at both monitors have occurred when winds were blowing out of the southeast, especially during the morning hours when the atmosphere is more stable.

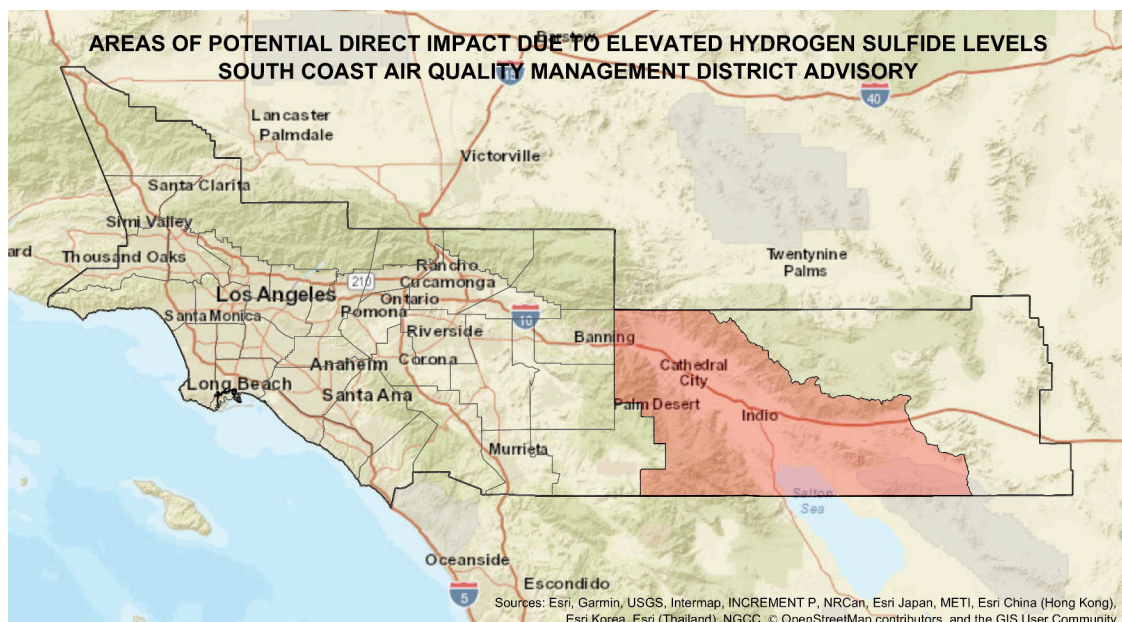
Winds from the southeast are expected during daylight hours on Sunday, possibly leading to elevated concentrations at both the Near-Shore and Mecca Community sites, with peak concentrations occurring in the morning.

The state standard for outdoor levels of hydrogen sulfide is 30 ppb averaged over one hour. At that level, most individuals can smell the odor and some may experience symptoms such as headaches and nausea. However, the symptoms associated with this level of exposure are temporary and do not cause any long-term health effects. Humans can detect hydrogen sulfide odors at extremely low concentrations, down to a few parts per billion.

South Coast AQMD monitors hydrogen sulfide at two locations in the southeastern Coachella Valley, one very close to the Salton Sea and the other in the community of Mecca. There is increased potential for Salton Sea odors to occur as the winds shift, especially in the summer months in the early morning and late afternoon, or as thunderstorms occur over the southwestern U.S. deserts.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

- **Riverside County:** Coachella Valley (Area 30)



More health information on hydrogen sulfide can be found at the following link:

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxguides/toxguide-114.pdf>

Visit <http://saltonseaodor.org> for current hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) monitored values in the Salton Sea area or to sign up for H₂S alerts.

South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: <http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory>

To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to <http://AirAlerts.org>

To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/aqimap>

For real-time air quality information, maps, notifications and health alerts in your area, download our award-winning South Coast AQMD app at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp>

Air quality forecasts are available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast>

For a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas>